727 Estonian farmers who were attached to their
661
177 homes and land, bought with hard labor from the
47
474 German estate owners some generations before. With the collectivization of agriculture the Estonian farm owners have become attached to the large kolkhozes, and Estonian industry has been organized according to the needs of the Soviet Union, its production going mainly to the USSR.

871 Political indoctrination is carried out in all
659
208 schools from kindergarten through the university; persecution of the Church seemed to be much more obvious now than it was during the First Occupation.[1]

642 The members of the government of the Esto-
661
nian SSR and other Communist officials who escaped to Russia when the Germans occupied Estonia, returned and resumed their duties as

1 [See ref. 116, pp. 57-65, 72 -- Analyst]

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

795 ecclesiastical problems within the Church.

In 1935 the new Church Constitution provided for some changes which were aimed at centralization.

659 The relations between Church and State were regulated in the 1920 Estonian Constitution where the separation of State and Church was estab-

[874] lished. The Theological Faculty, as well as a [793] special chair for Greek Orthodox theology at Tartu University, the institution which trained the ministers, was maintained by the State. For country congregations the State granted a certain amount of land which was farmed mainly by the pastors.

871 In the beginning years of the Republic of Estonia religious instruction was excluded from public schools. By means of the 1923 referendum it was reintroduced again by an

298 at the present time are revised before pastors
793 are allowed to deliver them and for ceremonies like weddings, christenings, funerals, and the like, the people must pay enormous taxes to the State, which average two to three months of a worker's salary.

659 The Estonian Orthodox Church was subjected
795 to the Moscow patriarch in 1941. This supremacy was repudiated during the Nazi occupation, but was imposed again in 1945. The buildings which belonged to the churches were nationalized as well as the lands in the country owned by the churches, and even the cemeteries. For each square meter of their living quarters the pastors reportedly have to pay twenty times more than a worker does. Also, the congregations have to pay for their churches an exorbitant fee to the State. It is rumored also that the churches

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

795 659 have to pay ten times more than a worker does for electricity, and for this reason the services [626] are often conducted in the dark. Furthermore, in order to deter churchgoers, the Communists reportedly arranged to have compulsory work on Sundays and have tried to keep records of the worshippers. Young people under 18 years of age are not allowed any religious education.

SOURCES

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[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

13

641 VG1 The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

Art. 91. The citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to rest and leisure.

[466] The right to rest and leisure is secured by the establishment of an eight-hour day for the overwhelming majority of workers, by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers, and by the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest homes and clubs for the accommodation of working people.

641 [657] Art. 92. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense, free medical service for working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

[871] Art. 93. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to education.

This right is ensured by universal and compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including higher education; by a system of state stipends for the overwhelming majority of students of higher educational institutions; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language, and by the organization in the factories, state farms, and machine and tractor stations of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

[562] Art. 94. Women in the Estonian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, by state protection of the interests of mother and child, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

[563] Art. 95. Equality of rights of citizens of the Estonian SSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity, is an indefeasible law.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law.

[659] Art. 96. In order to ensure the citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the Estonian SSR is separated from the state, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.